

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-19 Cancelled.

20 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment of a disease, which disease involves involving signalling of a cytokine through IL-2-cyc in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administration administering to a subject in need of an amount therapeutically effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK) or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, in a subject in need with the proviso that the cytokine is other than IL-2.

21 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20, wherein the cytokine is IL-12.

22 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20, wherein the cytokine is IL-15.

23 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the fragment of NIK comprises the C-terminus of NIK (from residue 624 to 947, SEQ ID NO:19).

24 (Currently Amended). The method according to  
claim 20, wherein the fragment of NIK comprises NIK 640-720  
(SEQ\_ID NO: 18).

25 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20,  
wherein the mutant of NIK is AlyNIK.

26-65 Cancelled

66 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment  
and/or prevention of a disease in which activation of a  
cytokine, having the common gamma chain (cyc) in its receptor,  
is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease, comprising  
administering to a subject in need a therapeutically amount  
effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction,  
amount of a polypeptide fragment of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase  
(NIK), comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a  
mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative,  
circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, to a  
subject in need which maintains the ability thereof to bind to  
cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

67 (Original). A method according to claim 66,  
wherein IL-2 is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease.

68 (Withdrawn). A method according to claim 66,  
wherein IL-15 is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease.

69 (Currently Amended). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK) and cyc interaction is involved in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to a host subject in need thereof a therapeutically an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of NIK, NIK comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

70 (Currently Amended). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF-κB activation is involved, comprising administering to a host subject in need thereof an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase NIK, (NIK) corresponding to the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

71 (Cancelled).

72 (Withdrawn). A method according to claim 69, for the treatment of cancer.

73 (Currently Amended). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease resulting from excessive immune responses, comprising administering to a host subject in need thereof a therapeuticallyan amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase NIK, (NIK) corresponding to the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

74 (Original). A method according to claim 73, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.

75 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 69, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.

76 (New). A method for the treatment of a disease, which disease involves signalling of a cytokine through cyc in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to

a subject in need an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, of a fragment of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK) comprising NIK 640-720 (SEQ ID NO:18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.